GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3944
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Benefits of Development
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that North-Eastern Region is deprived of the benefits of development due to poor and faulty communication links and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is also aware that waterways are the cheapest and most convenient form of communication links for the region which is not getting proper attention; and
(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of
Development of North Eastern Region
[Dr. Jitendra Singh]

(a) to (c) Difficult hilly terrains, inaccessibility and poor communication to remote areas, inadequate social and physical infrastructure are the major challenges for development of the North Eastern Region (NER) of the country. Recognizing the challenges faced by the region, there has been a constant focus of the Government for development of the region through special programmes for capacity building, skill development, human resource development, etc. Government has also emphasised also on expeditious completion of critical ongoing infrastructure projects, viz. road, rail, power, airports, telecommunication, inland water Transport etc.

Government is aware of the fact that waterways are an economical and environment friendly mode of transport. In NER, river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km.) has been declared as National Waterway-2 in 1988. This waterway has been developed and maintained with necessary infrastructure and is fully operational. In addition 21 potential rivers of NER have been identified for development of Inland Water Transport.